

interesting to see whether this is also the case in Delhi, where it is rare, or whether there are two different genes producing a similar phenotype. The species is not difficult to breed; a female confined in a large glass jar and supplied with a leaf or two of the food-plant [*Calotropis* spp. (Asclepiadaceae)] will lay freely if the jar is illuminated by a 60 watt bulb placed close to. The larvae can suffer severely from a Tachinid parasite, that lays its eggs in the tomentum on the underside of the *Calotropis* leaves, and it is essential to remove the tomentum from the leaves supplied for food.

Chilasa clytia (L.)—I do not think that it is correct to describe the large *dissimilis* L. form as a mimic of *D. limniace* (Cr.) and the small examples as mimics of *D. aglea* (Cr.). Mere size is of little or no importance in cases of mimicry, and it is far better to look on *dissimilis* as a mimic of a generalised blue and black *Danaus*.

Hypolimnas misippus (L.)—It seems strange that ff. *inaria* Cr. and *alcippoides* Btlr. should occur in view of the almost complete absence of their Danaid models.

Atella phalantha (Drury)—I do not think that *Barleria prionitis* (Acanthadaceae) can properly be recorded as a food-plant only on the strength of a female laying on it, unless larvae were also reared to maturity. The normal food-plants of *Atella* belong to the Flacourtiaceae, Celastraceae and Salicaceae.

I have recently watched a female of *Papilio demodocus* Esp. fly round and round an orange tree (Rutaceae), the food-plant, and then lay an egg on a small plant of *Euphorbia hirta* (Euphorbiaceae) growing at its base, an examination revealed a second and earlier laid egg on the same plant. Also, many years ago in Calcutta, I found eggs of *Danaus chrysippus* (L.) on a cultivated *Hibiscus* sp. (Malvaceae), on grasses (Gramineae) and on a strand of steel fencing wire, that were all mixed up in a plant of *Calotropis procera* (Asclepiadaceae), the proper food-plant.

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23. HAIRY CATERPILLARS ON BANANA IN MYSORE STATE

During July and August, 1972 the caterpillars of *Argina syringa* Cram., *Diacrisia obliqua* Walker and *Euproctis fraterna* Moore were observed feeding on banana in Hebbal and during the same period these insects were found feeding on the same host at Nanjanagud, Channapatna and Mandya. The young caterpillars fed gregariously on the under-surface

of banana leaves leaving only the upper epidermis. As a result of this the leaves skeletonised, dried and curled downward. In severe cases, the leaves completely dried. The grown up caterpillars defoliated the plants, especially of the tender leaves, and migrated from plant to plant.

In recent years, outbreaks of *D. obliqua* and *E. fraterna* have been noted on *Dolichos lablab*, limabeans, mulberry, horsegram, soybean, blackgram and *Phaseolus mungo* causing considerable loss round about Bangalore.

This report is the first on banana.

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24. OCCURRENCE OF GREEN STRIPED BORER, *MALIARPHA SEPARATELLA* RAGONOT ON SORGHUM IN THE PUNJAB *Maliarpha separatella* Ragonot (Phycitinae, Pyralidae: Lepidoptera) has been reported as a common pest of rice in Africa (Anonymous 1970) and is widely distributed in Ethiopian, Palaeotropic and Oriental regions (Kapur 1967). In India *M. separatella* was reported by Hampson (1896) as *Anerastia pallidicosta* from Punjab and Arunachal Pradesh. He also gave its distribution as Sri Lanka, Burma and China. After this record this insect does not seem to have been reported from anywhere in India.

During December 1971, green caterpillars were observed in the stubbles of sorghum 2-4 cm below soil level. On an average one larva per stubble and as many as 12 per cent stubbles having more than one larva with a maximum of 4 larvae only in 5 stubbles were recorded. During September 1972 larvae were observed in the basal region of sorghum plants (CSH-1). The larvae were again observed during November-December 1972 in the stubbles. This is the first record of sorghum as a host of *M. separatella*. So far it has been recorded primarily from rice plant in Africa and rarely from a wild grass weed *Echinochloa holubii* in Swaziland (Anonymous 1970).

Preliminary observations on its biology was made in the laboratory by supplying fresh tender splitted stems of sorghum to the larvae and changing the food as and when required. Brief description of various